

CLAIMS

1. A device for controlling the dispensing of tape from a roll, comprising a body portion having a first support which rests, in use, on the outer surface of the roll, the body portion carrying a cutter bar against which the tape may be drawn to cut the tape, and second and third supports within the roll, the second and third supports being carried by respective arms extending from the body portion, at least one of the arms being pivotable or flexible relative thereto and being biased outwardly away from the other support to ensure that the second and third supports are held in contact with the internal surface of the roll as the external diameter of the roll decreases in use.
2. A device according to Claim 1, wherein the arms are in the form of generally rectangular frame members extending from the body portion, the side of each frame remote from the body portion being split into two parts and the other opposed side members of each frame being resiliently deflectable to permit introduction of the roll through the opened-out splits, the sides of the frames with the openings constituting the second and third supports.
3. A device according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the body portion, the supports and the arms are integrally formed from a resilient plastics material, the biasing of the arms resulting from resilient deformation thereof.
4. A device according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the body portion has an opening between the first support and the cutter bar through which, in use, the tape from the roll can be led.
5. A device according to Claim 4, wherein the edge of the opening which faces away from the roll makes an oblique angle with the axis of rotation of the roll, whereby the cut end of the tape is deflected, when at rest, out of alignment with the remainder of the tape on the roll.
6. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein the cutter bar is positioned so as to make an oblique angle with the axis of rotation of the roll.
7. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein the cutter bar is a toothed metal insert.

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8. A device according to any preceding claim, wherein the second and third supports both contact the roll on the same side of the axis of rotation of the roll as the first support.